(c) As already stated, loans are granted only to State Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporations or any other agency nominated by the concerned State Government. Further, the loans are meant for disbursement to members of Backward Classes notified by the respective State Governments. It is learnt that the Government of Orissa have not yet notified the list of Backward Classes within the State of Orissa, nor have they nominated any Government agency for receipt and disbursement of loans. Hence, no proposals have been received from Orissa nor any amount sanctioned to them.

Criteria for sanction of Loan :

1. Scheme should be for income generation and not merely infrastructure development.

2. Scheme should be technically feasible and financially viable.

3. Beneficiary should belong to socially and educationally backward classes as notified by State Govt. or to be notified by Central Govt. from time to time.

4. Beneficiary's family income should be below double the poverty line, i.e. below Rs. 22,000.

5. Loan amount asked for should be within the limit prescribed by the NBCFDC.

जातियों/क्षेत्रों को जनजातियों/जनजातीय क्षेत्रों के रूप में घोषित किया जाना

648. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विभिन्न राज्यों से कुछ जातियों/क्षेत्रों को जनजातियों/जनजातीय क्षेत्रों के रूप में घोषित करते हेतु प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे प्रस्ताव किन-किन तारीखों को प्राप्त हुए तथा उनका अन्य ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) आज की तारीख तक प्रत्येक प्रस्ताव पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूचियों म व्यापक संशोधन करन के संदर्भ में ऐसे सभी प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ।

Minorities Commission without a Chairman

649. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minorities Commission has been without a Chairman for quite sometime now;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to rules no meeting of the Commission can be held without the Chairman;

(c) if so, whether the working of the Commission has come to a standstill; and

(d) the steps being taken to fill up the post of Chairman to make the Commission more effective and functional?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Decisions on important issues required formal meetings of the Commission. However, cases requiring immediate attention are considered in the informal meetings of the Members of the Commission. The Commission has not come to a standstill.

(d) The matter regarding constitution of the National Commission for Minorities by appointment of Chairperson and Members of the Commission as per the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 is under consideration of the Government.